



The Florida House of Representatives

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Legislation to Modernize Florida's Courts Passes House Judiciary Committee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Various measures intended to modernize Florida's court system today passed the House Judiciary Committee. Measures include House Bills 7101 and 7199, and House Joint Resolution 7111; collectively these bills aim to improve the efficiency of the administration of justice in the court system.

"I commend the hard work of the Members who have dedicated their time to taking a close look at the way the judicial branch of our government functions. Their commitment resulted in common-sense reforms that will modernize the state's judicial branch and significantly improve the administration of justice," said Representative William Snyder (R-Stuart), chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

"As lawmakers, it is our responsibility to ensure that government is operating in the most effective manner possible. And when it is not, it is our duty to correct that imbalance," said Representative Eric Eisnaugle, sponsor of House Bills 7111 and 7199. "By implementing reasonable changes to the court rulemaking process, modifying the disclosure policies of the Judicial Qualification Commission to make the impeachment process functional, and restructuring the administration and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, as well as providing for Senate Confirmation for Supreme Court Justices, we correct structural problems and address inefficiencies that currently exist within our state's judicial branch."

"The Florida court system is experiencing some significant delays in both civil and criminal cases, and these reforms address that concern by giving the Supreme Court additional resources to handle these cases by capitalizing on the expertise of judges. Additionally, our proposal provides a consistent funding source for the court, which we hope will lead to a more stability and certainly within the judicial system in the long-term," continued Representative Eisnaugle.

"House Bill 7101 enhances executive accountability in the judicial appointments process by giving the governor the sole responsibility for selecting and appointing members to Judicial Nominating Commissions," said Representative Matt Gaetz (R-Fort Walton Beach), sponsor of HB 7101. "This adjustment to the nomination and appointment process brings an added layer of transparency to an obscure system by removing members from JNCs who are not solely selected and appointed by an elected official who is directly answerable to the citizens of Florida."

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